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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.26/Rev.2 and Rev.2/Add.1, A/53/L.27 and Add.1, A/53/L.29 and Add.1, A/53/L.30/Rev.1 and Rev1./Add.1, A/53/L.32 and Add.1 and A/53/L.36 and Add.1)*]

53/1. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

D

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF NICARAGUA: AFTERMATH OF THE WAR AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/15 of 20 November 1990 concerning the situation in Central America, and resolutions 47/169 of 22 December 1992, 48/8 of 22 October 1993, 49/16 of 17 November 1994, 50/85 of 15 December 1995 and 51/8 of 25 October 1996 concerning the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which it requested the international community to continue to provide support to Nicaragua, taking into account the exceptional circumstances faced by that country, and requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Nicaraguan authorities, to provide the assistance necessary in the process of consolidation of peace,

Aware that, despite the reduction and renegotiation of the heavy burden of the foreign debt, achieved with the collaboration of the international community, Nicaragua continues to be a heavily indebted country, a fact that negatively affects its ability to ensure real sustainable growth,

Recognizing that, although progress has been made in the area of problems related to property, much still remains to be done, and that the resolution of these problems is an important factor in the consolidation of peace and democracy in Nicaragua,

Recognizing also the intensive efforts by the Government of Nicaragua to promote a sustained economic recovery and the considerable progress made in securing a broad social consensus by means of an ongoing process of national dialogue with a view to addressing national problems in a peaceful way,

Noting the importance of programmes for creating a culture of respect for human rights, laying the foundations of peace and promoting ethical values, which are being implemented in Nicaragua with the cooperation of the international community,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the prevention of natural disasters, the mitigation of their effects and assistance to victims through the municipal, regional and national system created by the Nicaraguan authorities with the assistance of the international community, which demonstrated its effectiveness in the emergency assistance provided to mitigate the serious effects of the drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon, which had a major impact on the country's agricultural production,

Taking into consideration the fact that in 1998 the demobilization of the last armed group remaining in the aftermath of the war was completed,

Considering that, despite the dedication and efforts of the Nicaraguan authorities in mine clearance, in cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defence Board, in many areas that were the scene of armed conflicts the problem of landmines persists, continuing to endanger the population and preventing cultivation and movement in vast areas of the country,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Support Group for Nicaragua, which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, continues to play an active role in supporting that country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development,

Considering that, despite the regional fire control and prevention strategy, the El Niño phenomenon prolonged the dry season during the period 1997–1998, leading to an increase in the number of forest fires in the Central American region, Nicaragua being the country that suffered most with extensive tropical forest areas affected,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8,[1]

1. *Commends* the efforts made by the international community, including the United Nations system, to supplement the action undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua and by other parties concerned in the tasks of resolving Nicaragua's special economic problems, strengthening democracy and consolidating peace;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General for his report concerning the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8;[1]

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[1] A/53/291.

3. *Encourages* the Government of Nicaragua to support the development of medium- and long-term national programmes and strategies, in particular those related to poverty alleviation, economic and social development and the resolution of problems related to property, with a view to the consolidation of a stable democracy;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts and progress made in mine clearance in Nicaragua, and calls on the States members of international organizations to continue to provide the material, technical and financial support needed by the Government of Nicaragua to complete mine-clearance activities in its national territory;

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to continue its cooperation with Nicaragua in order to supplement its national efforts and provide it with the necessary financial resources consistently and under favourable conditions, with a view to the effective promotion of its economic growth and development, the conservation of its natural resources and the strengthening of its democracy;

6. *Invites* creditor countries and funding institutions to continue to support Nicaragua in negotiations in order to come to an effective and equitable solution to the external debt problem and to support the country so that it may join the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative as soon as possible;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

E

ASSISTANCE TO THE NIGER, FOLLOWING THE SEVERE FLOODS

The General Assembly,

Seriously concerned about the loss of human life and unprecedented destruction of property, dwellings and infrastructure caused in recent months by the severest floods recorded in the history of the Niger,

Recalling that the Niger is one of the least developed countries and one of the poorest according to the human development index,

Considering that the extent of the disaster and its short- and medium-term effects require, as a complement to the endeavours of the Government and the people of the Niger, a humanitarian contribution from the international community to undertake relief and rehabilitation operations,

Noting the appeal for assistance in dealing with the disastrous consequences of the floods, made by the Government of the Niger to the international community on 19 August 1998,

1. *Expresses its solidarity with and support for* the Government and the people of the Niger at this difficult time;

2. *Calls upon* all the Member States, the specialized agencies and the other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to extend generous assistance to the Niger in support of the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction operations and programmes it is undertaking with a view to dealing with the disastrous consequences of the floods;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Member States, international and non-governmental organizations and individuals that have so generously helped the Government of the Niger to take the first immediate relief measures;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all the necessary arrangements for the mobilization and coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the international institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in order to support the endeavours of the Government of the Niger.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

F

SPECIAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE COMOROS

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,[2]

Recalling its resolution 51/30 F of 13 December 1996 on special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros,

Noting the fact that the Comoros has been subjected to external events beyond its control,

Noting also the political, economic and social trauma caused by those events, which are paralysing the economic activities of the Government, including the collection of State revenues from much of the national territory, thereby depriving the State budget of the greater part of its regular budget income,

Noting further that, as a result of those events, a severe economic crisis has had serious political consequences characterized by separatist tendencies which, since March 1997, have threatened the territorial integrity and economic and social survival of the Comoros,

Recognizing that this situation has resulted in a decline in the country's gross domestic product with adverse economic consequences; the complete impoverishment of the population; the inability of the Government to ensure that the salaries of civil servants are paid regularly; the virtual paralysis owing to a lack of resources, of the reconstruction and development programmes essential to the survival of the country; and a severe recession that has led to the collapse of the energy sector and to acute electricity and fuel shortages,

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[2] A/53/330.

Aware of the efforts made by the Government and the people of the Comoros to assist the most affected and deprived sectors of the population,

Considering in particular that, in order to respond to those urgent humanitarian needs the Government of the Comoros, in the absence of other resources, has had to reallocate to that end, as a matter of great urgency, the major part of the budget required for the functioning of the State and the financial resources normally devoted to vital economic and social programmes,

Considering also that the unfavourable situation of the Comoros, which is among the least developed countries, is aggravated by several important factors, including the physical distance from its trading partners, the scarcity of natural resources, the diminutive size of the domestic market, the fall in prices of its export products and the poverty of its soil,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General on emergency economic assistance to the Comoros;[2]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for having, from 25 August to 6 September 1997, expeditiously dispatched the multidisciplinary humanitarian and technical assessment mission to the Comoros, and for the mission's conclusions, which are contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Urges* the international community to respond generously to the needs for urgent assistance identified in annexes I and II to the report of the Secretary-General, and to grant to the Government of the Comoros all necessary assistance in order to enable it to cope with its budget deficits, including gifts in cash and in kind and debt forgiveness;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and to all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to all the international organizations concerned, including United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, for the assistance they have provided for the relief of the Comoros, and urges them, in consultation with the Government of the Comoros, to help the country to meet its most pressing humanitarian needs and to support its efforts to effect economic recovery;

5. *Stresses* that the financial resources available remain nonetheless insufficient vis-à-vis the basic needs to ensure the recovery of the country;

6. *Requests* all Member States and donor bodies, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to grant to the Comoros all necessary financial, economic and technical assistance, in order to enable it to achieve national reconstruction and sustainable development;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize the above-mentioned assistance and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

G

ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, 47/42 of 9 December 1992, 49/21 D of 20 December 1994 and 51/30 D of 5 December 1996, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997 on assistance in mine clearance, and stressing the need to foster the establishment of national mine-clearance capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of those weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction,

Bearing in mind that Mozambique is recovering from a devastating war and that a proper response to address the current situation in the country requires substantial international assistance in a comprehensive and integrated manner and linking, *inter alia*, resettlement to reintegration programmes in order to strengthen further the process of national reconstruction and development,

Bearing in mind also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,[3] and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

Noting the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist national efforts,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the consolidation of a lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in Mozambique;

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[3] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[4] A/53/157.

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Government and the people of Mozambique for national reconstruction and development;

5. *Stresses* that Mozambique has made significant progress in mitigating the consequences of a devastating war and that continued substantial coordinated international assistance is required to assist the country in addressing its development needs;

6. *Stresses also* the significant progress made by the Government of Mozambique in extending essential social services and in establishing an operating environment for poverty reduction and sustainable human development;

7. *Welcomes* the development assistance focused on rehabilitation and extension of essential social services and infrastructure, human capital investment, promotion of smallholder agriculture and establishment of an enabling environment for the expansion of private sector activity;

8. *Commends* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to mine action in Mozambique, and urges those that have the capacity to do so to continue to provide the needed assistance with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to develop its national mine-action capacity within the framework of the ongoing mine-action programme;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique:

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique;

(*b*) To continue to coordinate the work of the United Nations system for adequate response to the development needs of Mozambique;

(*c*) To prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

H

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION FOR THE HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL REHABILITATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEMIPALATINSK REGION OF KAZAKHSTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 M of 16 December 1997,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

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[5] A/53/424.

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, has become a matter of serious concern for the people and the Government of Kazakhstan with regard to its consequences for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Conscious that the international community should pay due attention to the issue of the human, ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the situation in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing the need to coordinate national and international efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the health of the affected population and the environment in this region,

Bearing in mind the need for know-how in minimizing and mitigating radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental problems in the Semipalatinsk region,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[6] of the heads of the Central Asian States of 28 February 1997, proclaiming 1998 as the Year of Environmental Protection in the region of Central Asia,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[5] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, which constitute a useful input in the elaboration of an overall plan of action to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems and to meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Stresses* the need for greater international attention and extra efforts in solving problems with regard to the Semipalatinsk region and its population;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of special programmes and projects of treatment and care for the affected population in the Semipalatinsk region;

4. *Invites* all States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to share their knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Invites* all Member States, in particular donor States, relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, to participate in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to pursue a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

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[6] A/52/112, annex.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998

I

ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LIBERIA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996 and 52/169 E of 16 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

Commending the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all donor countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the European Union, the Bretton Woods institutions and the non-governmental organizations for their participation in the Donors' Conference convened in Paris on 7 April 1998 for the reconstruction of Liberia, and urges those that have not yet honoured their pledges and commitments to do so;

2. *Also expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;

3. *Calls upon* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to Liberia in order to facilitate the implementation of its National Reconstruction Programme submitted at the Donors' Conference;

4. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socio-economic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to uphold the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him:

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[7] A/53/377.

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help the Government of Liberia in its reconstruction and development, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

(*b*) To continue his collaboration with the Government of Liberia with the objective of holding, in due course, the second round-table conference of donors to consider the funding of the second phase of the National Reconstruction Programme, depending on progress in the fields of human rights, national reconciliation and the strengthening of the rule of law;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2000, on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-fifth session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

59th plenary meeting
16 November 1998